

1777

John Paul Jones was given command of a new warship, the "Ranger." He sailed to France to tell the French King about "Saratoga." The King already knew. "Obtaining permission from Benjamin Franklin, he sailed the "Ranger" straight for the coast of England. He sailed to Whitehaven where there was a fort. He stole into the harbor at night. Ted Hughes

a group of his men rowed to shore. No guards were in sight. They spiked the guns & went back to the harbor. There, they set fire to one ship. Previously no enemy had landed on British soil in 700 years. Next day the "Renger" came upon a mighty English warship, the DRAKE. Before the British knew the Renger had swung across their bow, not once, but again & again. His shells ripped through the ships rigging. After an hour, the British Captain hauled down his Colors. America had won their first great victory at sea. He sailed the Drake with him when he returned to France & several merchant ships he had captured.